

CIA/OSR /MEMO PA 750318 ESTIMATED DOLLAR COSTS OF SOVIET PERIPHERAL ATTACK FORCES MAR 75 SECRET

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**[SECRET]**S-141-75  
PIA

CIA/OSR / MEMO PA 750318

18 March 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Air &amp; Missile Forces Branch

SUBJECT : Estimated Dollar Costs of Soviet  
Peripheral Attack Forces 1965-1975

1. In response to Ed Potter's request, attached is a draft of several paragraphs summarizing Soviet peripheral attack costs over the period 1965-1975, for possible inclusion in a paper on peripheral attack forces. We have presented the costs in dollar terms, drawing from our OSR Best-74 data file, which contains the most recent costing information we have on these forces.

2. We are now updating the OSR Best file, a process which is expected to take at least several months. Depending on the progress of the update and on the schedule of your paper, we should perhaps consider later on whether we can use information from the updated file for the paper's costing section. In any case, we would like to review these paragraphs later for compatibility within the context of the overall paper.

MICRO  
ONLY

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Chief  
Expenditure Implications Branch, SR/PA

Attachment:  
As stated

Classified by *216.0.25*  
Exempt from general declassification schedule  
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SB (1) (2) (3) or (4) (one or more)  
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D R A F T

Dollar Cosus of Peripheral Attack

During the period 1965 through 1975, most of the total cost of the Soviet peripheral attack forces--a total which is the equivalent of about 30 billion dollars\*--has been for operating the systems deployed prior to the mid-Sixties. Cumulatively over this period, operating costs have amounted to about 80 percent of the dollar cost of peripheral attack.

The largest item in peripheral attack costs over the period--measured in dollar terms--has been that of operating the SS-4 MRBM system, whose deployment in large numbers in soft and hard configurations was completed by 1965. Operating costs for the large TU-16 Badger fleet have been another significant factor. The cost of operating the ballistic missile submarines assigned to peripheral attack has been a relatively small part of the total.

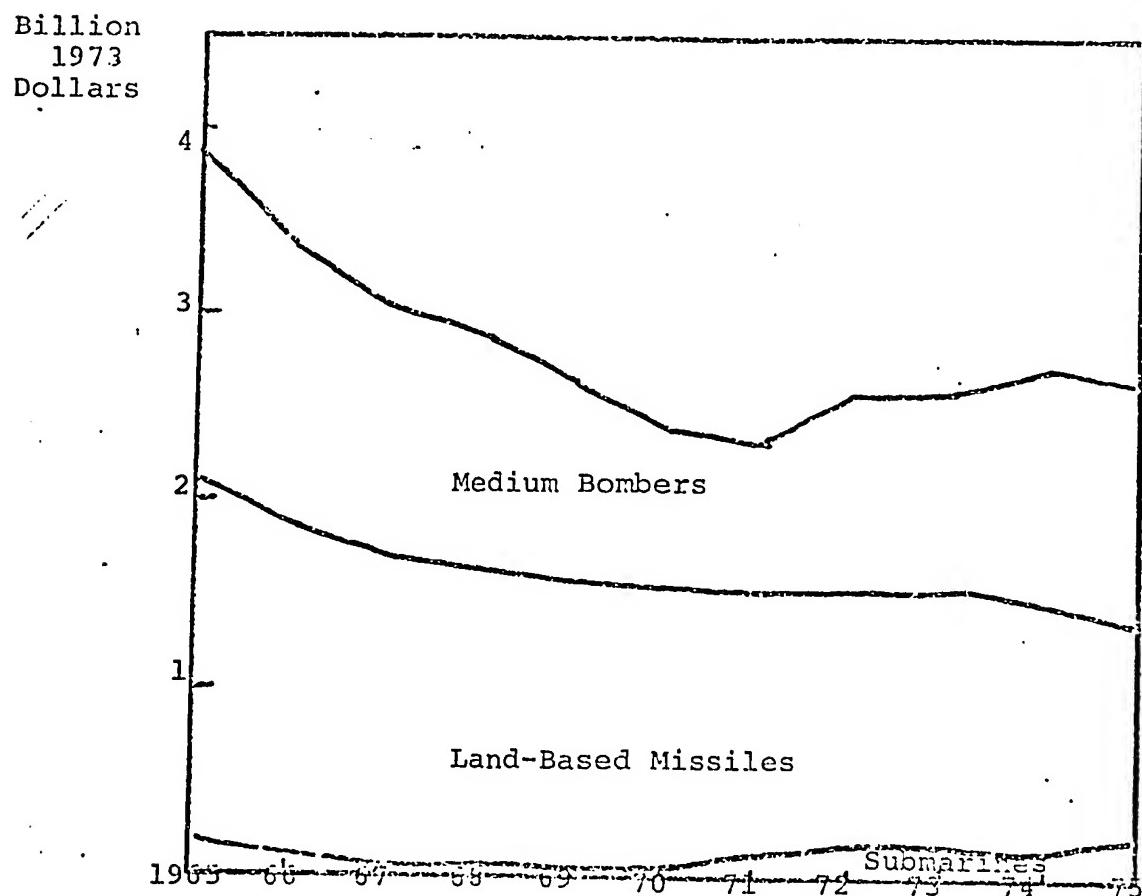
\* These dollar figures are rough approximations of what it would cost in the US in 1973 to purchase and to operate the estimated Soviet programs.

The costs presented here are estimates of Soviet investment and operating costs. Costs for research, development, testing and evaluation (RDT&E) are not included. Investment includes procurement of equipment and construction of facilities. Operating costs include costs for personnel and for operations and maintenance of equipment.

No costs are included in these figures for the SS-11 system because of the problem of determining for any given time the number of deployed SS-11 missiles assigned to peripheral targets.

Most peripheral attack investment in the past ten years has been in the TU-22 Blinder program, whose procurement costs were at their highest point in 1965, and in the Backfire medium bomber, where investment in production of the aircraft began in 1972 and has been increasing ever since. Following completion of deployment of the SS-4 and SS-5 systems in 1965, there was little investment over the decade in strategic missiles for peripheral attack.

The trend of annual peripheral attack force costs was downward from a high of nearly 4 billion dollars in 1965 to somewhat less than 2.5 billion in 1971, as weapon systems investment declined and some deployed systems were phased out. Since 1972, estimated yearly costs have risen due to Backfire investment and the shifting of some submarines from an intercontinental to a peripheral attack role, but have remained below the 3 billion dollar level.

D R A F TEstimated Dollar Costs of Soviet Peripheral  
Attack Forces, 1965-1975

	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975
Bombers	1.77	1.53	1.33	1.26	1.04	0.87	0.82	1.01	1.04	1.22	1.23
Missiles	1.94	1.75	1.66	1.59	1.54	1.49	1.41	1.40	1.40	1.36	1.23
Missile Submarines	0.16	0.11	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.06	0.12	0.18	0.16	0.15	0.21
TOTAL	3.87	3.39	3.06	2.92	2.65	2.42	2.35	2.59	2.60	2.73	2.67